

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S MEETING WITH
SECRETARY VANCE

1. THIS TELEGRAM BASED ON AN UNCLEARED MEMCON.
2. SUMMARY: JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON MET
WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
FOR 90 MINUTES MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS
AND PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION.
IN THE COURSE OF A VERY FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL EXCHANGE,
BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS IS
DESIRABLE, AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT A GROUP OF EXPERTS
SHOULD MEET TO STUDY AID QUESTIONS. WIDE-RANGING
DISCUSSION ALSO INCLUDED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES
AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

3. MANLEY VISIT: PATTERSON BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE
BROUGHT BEST WISHES FROM PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, WHO
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 049722

HOPES FOR AN EARLY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
MANLEY WOULD BE READY WHENEVER CONVENIENT TO THE PRESI-
DENT, AND PATTERSON THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR
THE PRESIDENT TO SEE MANLEY ALSO AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE THIRD WORLD. SECRETARY VANCE INDICATED THAT THE
PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING AND THAT
WE WILL TRY TO FIND A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME.

3. BILATERAL RELATIONS: PATTERSON SAID THAT GOJ PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., WITH WHOM JAMAICA HAS HAD A LONG, CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT HOW FEW ISSUES HE HAD FOUND SEPARATING THE U.S. AND JAMAICA AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CONSTANT DIALOGUE TO PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS. HE CITED THE PRESS AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHEN OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION ARE NEGLECTED. THE SECRETARY AGREED WITH THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE AND SAID THAT THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT THE U.S. AND JAMAICA PURSUE SIMILAR OBJECTIVES, SOMETIMES BY DIFFERENT METHODS. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. ACCEPTS JAMAICA'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN POLICIES.

4. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: PATTERSON STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S. MARKET TO JAMAICA AND SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GROUP OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE SECRETARY AGREED TO CONSIDER THE SUGGESTION FOR AN EXPERTS' GROUP. HE SAID WE WOULD FOLLOW UP PROMPTLY. FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION OF GOJ SOCIAL REFORMS AND CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PATTERSON SAID THAT JAMAICA GREATLY APPRECIATES USAID ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF A DOLS 10 MILLION SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION.

5. RELATIONS WITH THE IMF: PATTERSON REQUESTED U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 049722

ASSISTANCE IN GAINING THE SYMPATHY OF THE IMF FOR JAMAICA'S PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT JAMAICA'S MOST DESPERATE PROBLEM IS ITS 23 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT AND THAT THE GOJ CANNOT AFFORD THE SOCIAL COST OF DEVALUATION AND REDUCTION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS AS DESIRED BY THE IMF. THE SECRETARY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING AN ACCOMODATION WITH THE IMF. PATTERSON INDICATED THAT THE GOJ HAD AGREED WITH THE IMF TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS IN EARLY APRIL, FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE JAMAICAN PRODUCTION PROGRAM IN MARCH.

6. REVERE: THE SECRETARY STRESSED THE POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IF THE REVERE CASE WERE NOT SETTLED. PATTERSON CALLED REVERE'S POSITION "A BLATANT ATTEMPT AT A RIP-OFF" AND INDICATED THAT THE GOJ WOULD MAINTAIN ITS HARD LINE. HE SAID THE GOJ WOULD ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE JAMAICAN COURTS BUT FELT THE REVERE CASE HAD LITTLE MERIT. HE INDICATED THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD WITH SOUTHWIRE AND OPIC CONCERNING A POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF REVERE'S ASSETS BUT SAID THAT, CONTRARY TO SOME PEOPLE'S STATEMENTS, NO

AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE VALUE OF REVERE'S FACILITIES.

7. CUBA: PATTERSON SAID THAT JAMAICA AND CUBA SHARE MANY PROBLEMS COMMON TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. JAMAICA IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CUBA'S EXPERIENCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING, SCHOOLS AND MICRODAMS, WHILE ADVISING THE CUBANS ON TOURISM. HE SAID THAT CUBA AND JAMAICA ARE AGREED THAT EACH HAS ITS OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM AND WILL NOT TRY TO CONVERT THE OTHER. PATTERSON MAINTAINED THAT JAMAICA IS WORKING OUT ITS OWN FORM OF "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM," WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN ATTRACTIVE MODEL FOR OTHER HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES, IN CONTRAST TO SOME WHICH HAVE ADOPTED AUTOCRATIC OR EVEN FASCIST SYSTEMS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CUBA, AND HE OFFERED JAMAICAN ASSISTANCE IF DESIRED.

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PAGE 04 STATE 049722

SECRETARY VANCE REPLIED THAT JAMAICA CAN HELP, SINCE ALL COUNTRY MUST HELP EACH OTHER TO GET ALONG IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. AND CUBA HAD BEEN TOO LONG IN A STATE OF NON-COMMUNICATION AND SHOULD BEGIN QUIET DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR PROBLEMS.

8. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS: PATTERSON ASKED FOR U.S. INITIATIVES AND GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN CIEC AND MTN. HE SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES ARE ALWAYS READY TO FIND SCAPEGOATS, BUT THE U.S. HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA AND WILL BE BLAMED IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN PROGRESS RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION AND THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE ON CIEC.

9. WESTERN HEMISPHERE POLITICS: PATTERSON EXPRESSED HOPE FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND JAMAICA'S SUPPORT FOR REVITALIZING THE OAS. HE ASKED FOR ACTIVE U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE AND SAID THAT JAMAICA FEARS THE APPARENT NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.K. AND GUATEMALA ACTUALLY INDICATES A WIDENING OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.K. AND BELIZE. THE SECRETARY SAID THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN BELIZE AND UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE OAS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION.

10. OTHER: PATTERSON ASKED FOR CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA AS THE SITE OF THE LOS SEABED AUTHORITY. HE SAID THAT THE GOJ WOULD SOON EXTEND ITS OWN FISHERIES

BOUNDARY AND WOULD WISH TO CONSULT WITH THE U.S. HE
ALSO ASKED THE U.S. TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN FIGHTING
APARTHEID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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